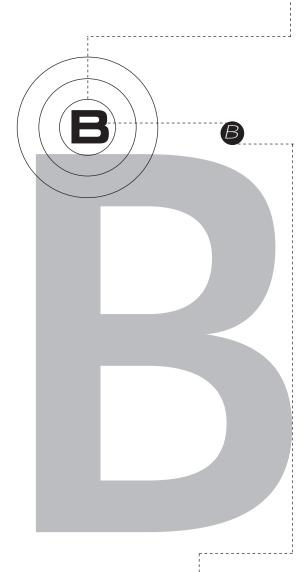
HEPATITIS B.....CAN

BE PREVENTED!



Hepatitis B

- is a disease of the liver
- is found in blood and body fluids and can be spread by:
 - sexual contact
 - sharing drug needles
 - a mother to her newborn
 - sharing razors and toothbrushes
- is commonly spread to children whose parents have hepatitis B and among sexually active teenagers, people who "shoot up" drugs, and gay men
- can remain in the blood of a sick person for many years, and cause cancer, cirrhosis, and even death
- is not spread through food, water, or casual contact



Signs and Symptoms

- fatigue
- mild fever
- flu-like illness
- nausea and vomiting
- stomach ache
- loss of appetite
- Some people have:
 - no symptoms at all
 - yellow eyes and skin (jaundice)
 - dark urine
 - light-colored stool

Treatment

- doctor visit
- rest
- plenty of liquids
- no beer, wine, or liquor
- no "pot" or other drugs
- Antibiotics do not help because hepatitis B is caused by a virus. If your illness does not go away, see your doctor. A medicine called interferon may help.

Prevention

- Limit your sex partners to one and always use a condom if you or your partner have sex with others.
- Never share needles used to "shoot up" drugs.
- Get your blood tested if you:
 - are pregnant
 - live, have sex, or share drug needles with someone who has hepatitis B
- Ask your doctor about hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) if you are exposed.
- Get the vaccine. Starting at birth, all children should be immunized against hepatitis B. Each person needs three shots. You should get the vaccine if you:
 - have more than one sex partner
 - "shoot up" drugs or have a sex partner who does
 - live or have sex with someone who has hepatitis B

